

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -
Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

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Agricultural Counselor Visits Diyala PRT Aug 2-4, 2011–

David Salmon, Agricultural Counselor, visited the Diyala PRT with Pat Broyles, Soil and Water Ministerial Advisor to discuss the Province's agricultural needs and progress with Dr Majid Al Khalid, Director General of Agriculture. Their discussion centered on training needs of the DG's personnel and after the PRT closes how the Embassy's focus will be on the Ministerial level. Afterwards a short meeting with the Governor. Later they met the Mukhtar, Sa'ad Azeez, of Majadad Village. Majadad Village is an Internally Displaced Person village and part of the Hayat Jadida Agricultural Livelihoods program.



Anah, Haditha, and Rawah Demonstration Farms – In May and June 2011 PRT Anbar partnered with the DG of Ag Extension and completed construction of three demonstration farms. The PRT contributed the irrigation equipment to make the farm operational. This equipment included three high efficiency irrigation systems. The first system was a drip irrigation system for greenhouses that were purchased by the Department of Ag Extension. The second was a drip irrigation system for trees. The third was a fixed sprinkler system. Along with the three irrigation systems this project provided a well and all the pumps and pipes needed to operate the systems. The Department of Ag Extension provided the land and constructed a building for an

office and conference room for training. Total cost of these farms is a little of \$125,000 USD each, however the portion that PRT provided was only \$23,432.

Personnel Update - There are currently 15 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units.

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